1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33)1936 SR9 Carib SR9

538 accounts of their experiences, and are drawn out to considerable lengths. While an individual is telling a story the listeners continually supply exclamations, a high pitched "ko-o?" or an "ao-o" with rising and falling inflection. The pattern is for listeners continually to express surprise, astonishment, and amazement at the words of the speaker. It is also customary to repeat "yao" and to grunt at frequent intervals as a means of encouraging the speaker and showing him that he is holding the listeners' attention. Speakers dramatize their material with gestures and tones of voice. Excitement or laughter grip the group as the story progresses to its climax. Most of these stories are, of course, utterly pointless in translation, but I believe that this type of story-telling can be regarded as the Carib equivalent of the drama.

[536]

RECKONING OF TIME

805 SPECIAL mention should be made of the Carib attitude toward the
824 passage of time. No provision is made for reckoning the passing
821 of the years, or for distinguishing one year from another, so that no one knows his exact age. The term for year is "siditcho," meaning "star," and referring to the seven stars of the Pleiades, which pass over the heavens once a year. Aside from these I have found little evidence of star lore among the Caribs. On the Barama it is said that one knows that the end of the year has come by noticing that certain wild fruits, such as the sawari nut, are ripe and are dropping to the ground. The present month is distinguished from the preceding and following ones by reference to the phases of the moon, but beyond this calculations seldom go.

211 When a man leaves home for a journey, he specifies the number of
805 days he will be gone by giving to his wife a cord in which a knot has been tied for each day of his absence. The wife unties one of the knots each day that he is away, and expects him to return when the cord is finally knotless.[1]

The time of day is reckoned by the position of the sun. Thus, when asked how long will be required to reach a given point, an Indian will reply by pointing to the position which the sun will occupy when the destination has been reached.

[1] For the distribution of this device in South America, and its connection with the quipus of the Andean area, see Nordenskiöld, 1930, *Modifications of Indian Culture*.